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TOBACCO BRANCH

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TOBACCO INSPECTION, MARKET NEWS, AND DEMONSTRATION SERVICE  
(Flue-cured)

By Hugh W. Taylor, Principal Marketing Specialist

Inspection of tobacco according to standard grades as an aid to growers in marketing their crop was inaugurated in 1929 by the United States Department of Agriculture. This service is now about 11 years old, but until recently the work has been conducted on such a limited scale that most tobacco growers are still unfamiliar with what the service is, how it is conducted, and how it can be of dollars-and-cents value to them.

Reasons for the inspection and market news services are readily understood by every farmer who has sold a split lot of tobacco for two widely different prices, or has taken in a basket and resold it on the same floor for possibly twice or three times the first price. Every tobacco grower knows there is much uncertainty about the price any basket of tobacco will bring, and that there is a wide range in the prices paid for lots of tobacco of same quality. He knows that often he has lost money because he was on the short end of that price range.

Inspection and market news services have been developed to provide a measuring stick for quality and price in order that growers may protect themselves against loss in the sale of their tobacco.

The inspection service undertakes the inspection and certification of the grade of tobacco, before sale, at auction markets. Packed tobacco is also inspected and the grade is certified upon application by interested parties.

The Department of Agriculture, cooperating with State Agencies, has made tobacco inspection service and tobacco price reports available to growers on an increasing number of markets, to determine whether by informing growers as to the grade and current market price of tobacco, basket by basket, the auction-market system would be improved and the wide range in prices paid to growers for the same grade of tobacco would be reduced.

Its value as an aid to growers in marketing tobacco has been fully demonstrated. Although prior to 1936 a small fee was charged for tobacco inspection, during the years 1931 to 1935, inclusive, from 108 million to 186 million pounds of farmers' tobacco were sold annually by standard grades on auction markets. The Tobacco Inspection Act of 1935 has made it possible to expand the service and to put it at the disposal of growers without charge as rapidly as funds become available and additional personnel can be trained. The Act provides for three distinct services - demonstration, inspection, and market news.

The value of the inspection service lies in the fact that the certificate of grade on the warehouse ticket provides tobacco growers with unbiased information regarding the grade or quality of each lot of tobacco offered for sale. In connection with the price reports, this information gives them a basis for making an intelligent decision on whether or not to accept a bid.

The tobacco market news service operates in connection with the inspection service. After a lot of tobacco has been sold, and has been so entered on the warehouse books, a coupon is taken from the warehouse ticket on each basket of tobacco. The coupons, showing the Federal grade and the price at which each lot has been sold, are forwarded to a central office where they are sorted according to grade and the price for each grade is calculated. These prices are then issued in the form of daily and weekly price reports.

As regards the preparation for market of flue-cured tobacco the following placard was recently issued by the Tobacco Association of the United States.

ATTENTION: TOBACCO GROWERS

For the Mutual Good of the Farmer and the Buyer  
The Tobacco Trade Asks Your Full Cooperation

SEE THAT YOUR TOBACCO IS

CAREFULLY SORTED

ALL STRINGS REMOVED

AND TIED INTO NEAT UNIFORM

MEDIUM-SIZED BUNDLES

We Particularly Advise You to Avoid Capping of Bundles  
and Oversized Bundles and Suggest an Average of  
17 Leaves to the Bundles

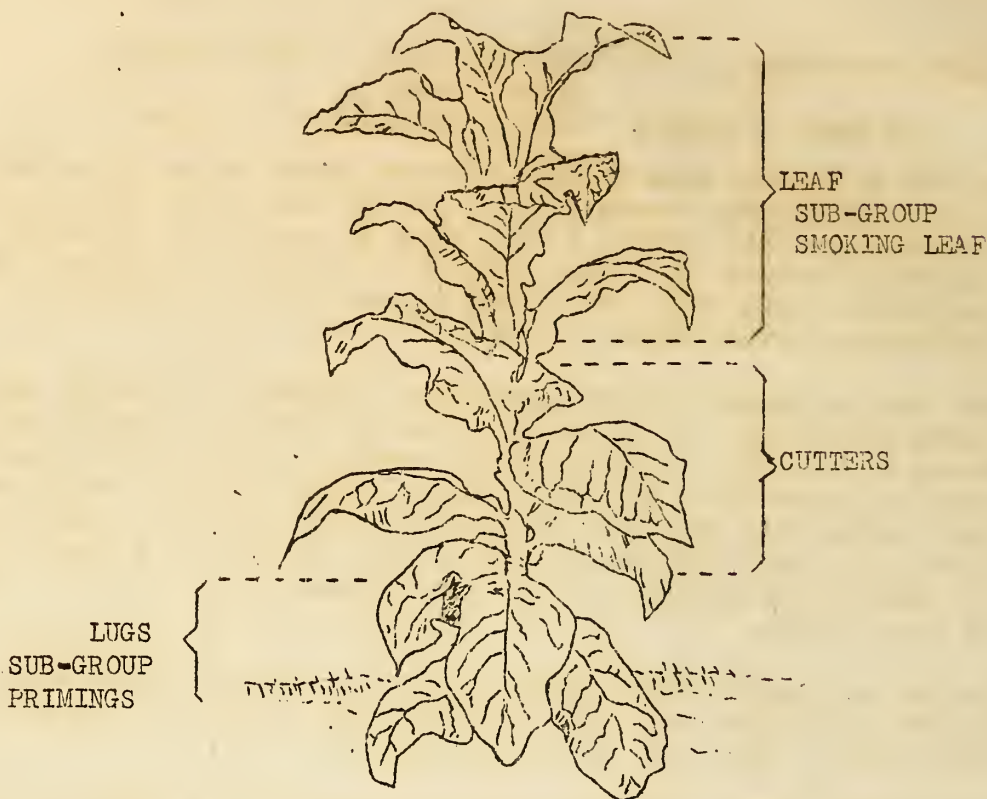
TOBACCO ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

1943

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FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PLANT



KEY TO STANDARD GRADE MARKS FOR FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

GROUPS	QUALITIES	COLORS	SPECIAL FACTORS
A - Wrappers	1 - Choice	L - Lemon	V - Greenish
B - Leaf	2 - Fine	F - Orange	M - Mixed
H - Smoking Leaf	3 - Good	R - Red	K - Variegated
C - Cutters	4 - Fair	D - Dark Red	W - Unsafe Order
X - Lugs	5 - Low	G - Green	U - Unsound
P - Primings	6 - Common	(L) Lemon Side	
N - Nondescript		(F) Orange Side	
		(R) Red Side	

For example: B4L designates leaf, fair quality and lemon color.

<b>BLANK'S</b>	TOBACCO INSPECTION CERTIFICATE	
	This tobacco inspected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Tobacco Inspection Act, is certified to be:	
	TYPE 12	
	Grade - - - - -	
	- - - - - (Date) - - - - - By - - - - - (Inspector)	
	PLANTER - - - John Doe - - - - -	
	PRICE \$ - - - - - 204 - LBS.	
BUYER - - - - -		

<b>BLANK'S</b>	TOBACCO INSPECTION CERTIFICATE	
	This tobacco inspected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Tobacco Inspection Act, is certified to be:	
	TYPE 12	
	Grade - - - B4L - - - - -	
	- - - 10/7/42 - - - By - M. M. V. - - - (Inspector)	
	PLANTER - - - John Doe - - - - -	
	PRICE \$ - - - 46 - - - - - 204 - LBS.	
BUYER - - - W - - - - - X - - - - -		

SAMPLE TOBACCO WAREHOUSE TICKETS:  
Upper - Before Inspection and Sale  
Lower - After Inspection and Sale

AG 80  
811